WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 9, NO. 6 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | OCTOBER 1998

"Unless we reclaim the mantle of true equal opportunity and justice, we are destined to watch as white is pitted against black and brown, men are pitted against women and the middle class is played off against the poor." Tim Wise

Local Pro-Choice Forces Assert Rights of Women

WIP News Service

A peaceful but exuberant crowd of pro-choice students and others gathered on Conger St. in Olympia to counter the effects of the traveling roadshow that is Operation Rescue on Monday, September 21. Signs reading "Anti-Choice=Anti-Women" and "NO 694: Pro-Choice Voter!" lined the sidewalk in front of Capital High School, one of the targets of Operation Rescue's anti-choice procession.

The pro-choice crowd was vocal and initiated communication with passing vehicles whose drivers honked in support of pro-choice efforts.

I-694 would override the medical decision that should ultimately occur between a woman and her doctor.

The Operation Rescue entourage moved on to Sound Choice Health Center in Olympia, the site of last year's picket. They were met by scores of pro-choice women and men, and forced to share sidewalk space and compete for attention which is drawn easily due to their gory signs that oversimplify and trivialize abortion rights.

When pro-choice counter-picketers decided to extend their message by crossing the street, they were met by Operation Rescue men with the trademark large signage. After some minutes of peaceful demonstration, a representative of the business that was located beyond the public sidewalk began to protest the use of the sidewalk in front of his business, claiming that it was ruining his business potential. This outburst was followed by the spraying of a hose, innocently referred to as "washing the cars" (the business being a used car lot), while actually spraying both Operation Rescue drones and pro-choice activists. The spraying of Operation Rescue people turned into a brawl between a man on the car lot and an Operation Rescue leader. Meanwhile, pro-choice activists stood firm.

Minutes later, Olympia police swarmed the area, actually closing off Lilly Rd. from Pacific to Martin Way. A police officer issued an unnecessary threat when he blocked off the street and wielded a rifle. Other police officers openly held pistols and made no attempt to communicate why there was such an undue amount of force present. Eventually, activists learned that Operation Rescue alleged that the owner of the car lot stated he had a gun. The men involved in the fistfight were moved away from the scene for questioning, and various statements were written, mostly by the Operation Rescue crowd, who also caught most of the action on video as an attempt to discredit pro-choice activists and allege guilt in a situation that did not involve pro-choice activists.

The counterpicket was eventually disbanded when the streets were unblocked and Operation Rescue backed down by removing themselves and their ugly propaganda from the street.

Want to get involved in weekly local clinic defense? Eastside Women's Health at 1100 Eastside Street SE near downtown Olympia gets regular anti-choice picketers and needs defense on Thursdays from 8am-1pm. Get more info by showing up.

Religious Right Agenda Drives I-694

Various groups are banding together to fight Initiative 694, an initiative on the November ballot. Among these groups are Washington State National Organization of Women (NOW), WA State National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL), Planned Parenthood of Western Washington and Affiliates, the ACLU of Washington, and the WA State Medical Association. Once again, the religious right rears its ugly head in an attempt to roll back abortion rights law on the road to banning all abortions.

I-694 is a poorly written initiative that would ban some late-term abortions; the method of abortion used in the most extreme of circumstances. The type of late-term abortion I-694 targets are extremely rare and only used to save the life or health of the woman, and I-694 would override the medical decision that should ultimately occur between a woman and her doctor. The initiative is poorly written in an attempt to change the legal definition of abortion. This would allow differing interpretations of procedures that are currently legal and have been fought for over many years by pro-choice and women's rights groups.

In 1970, 1984, and 1991, voters in Washington state indicated that they would protect a woman's right to safe and legal abortions. This attempt at dismantling abortion rights piece by piece is one tactic that anti-choice groups use to pave the way for dismantling abortion rights even further.

The sponsor of I-694 was a lead fundraiser for religious right gubernatorial candidate Ellen Craswell and much of the funds for this initiative come from members of the fringe American Heritage Party.

The people behind this initiative are religious political extremists, and even some well-intentioned people who have been deceived by the rhetoric. Ultimately, women's rights to abortion are being attacked. Will our state stand firmly pro-choice, or fall prey to voter apathy or mis-education?

Vote No on I-694. Assert women's rights to safe and legal abortion.

To contact the No!694 campaign: call 206/728-5919; info@no694.org. Also see the website: http://www.no694.org.

Civil Rights Endorsements

	Labor	NOW	FV
U.S. Senate - Patty Murray	✓	✓	
U.S. House, 3rd - Brian Baird	✓	✓	✓
U.S. House, 9th - Adam Smith	✓		✓
Supreme Court, Pos. 1 - Hugh Spitzer	✓	✓	
- Faith Ireland		✓	
Supreme Court, Pos. 5 - Barbary Madsen	✓		
Initiative 200	No	No	
Initiative 688	Yes	Yes	
Initiative 694		No	
Referedum 49	No		
Washington Legislature, 22nd - Cathy Wolfe			✓
- Sandra Romero			✓
Thurston Commissioner - Kevin O'Sullivan	✓		✓
Thurston Coroner - Judy Arnold	✓		✓
Thurston Treaserer - Robin Hunt	✓		✓
Thurston Auditor - Keith Clark	✓		✓
Thurston Clerk - Betty Gould	✓		✓
Thurston Assessor - Patricia Costello	✓		✓
- Bob Van Schoorl			✓
Thurston Sheriff - Thor Gianesini	✓		No
Thurston Prosecuting Attorney - Ed Holm	✓		✓

Labor is the Washingrton State Labor Council on state issues/candidates and the Thurston-Lewis Central Labor Council on local ones; NOW is the Washington National Organization for Women on state issues/candidates only; and FV is Freedom Vote which is dedicated to guaranteeing the civil rights of all citizens.

NO!200 Rally

The Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity invites local residents who say , "NO! To Initiative 200 and YES! to Affirmative Action" to attend a rally on Saturday, October 10th. The rally starts at Noon at the State Capitol Steps, with a march to Sylvester Park at 12:30pm. At 1pm the rally continues at Sylvester Park in downtown Olympia, with speakers and music. This rally is being organized to mobilize local people who are rising to the defense of Affirmative Action in Washington State by opposing Initiative 200.

Initiative 200, a ballot measure in the upcoming November general elecition, is the fourth attempt by Representative Scott Smith and others to destroy affirmative action in out state. This campaign is headed up by John Carlson, conservative media personality most recently fired from KVI radio. As state in a Seattle TImes editorial, "Initiative 200 is misleading -- deliberatly so-- and only hints at the real goal of the measure, which is to end existing affirmative action policies." The time to act is now, and we urge you to join the state wide effort to stop Initiative 200 from turning the clock back 30 years to a time when higher education, public employment and and government contracting were virtually clsoed to people of color and women.

The Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity is a local coalition of groups and individuals who seek to oppose Initiative 200. We are strongly affiliated with the NO! 200 Campaign, but we have intentionally formed a broader coalition of radicals, mainstream campaign activists and NO! 200 Campaign members. Our primary goal is to educate the public as to the true intent of I-200.

Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity will be meeting on Wed. Oct. 7; Wed. Oct. 14, Wed. Oct. 21, and Wed. Oct. 28. These meetings are held at 7pm at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St, downtown Olympia.

For more information please call 943-7469 or write to us care of PO Box 7221, Olympia, WA 98507. If you wish to contact the NO! 200 Coalition, please call them at 206-929-5715.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located in the Liberation Cafe.

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index. Back issues are also available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell — Wendy Ortiz
Frank Hoffman — Hali Panneton
Teresa Jennings — Tara Perkins
Jerome Johnson — Marie Smith
Margaret Love — Sylvia Smith
Evelyn Montague — Pat Tassoni

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Oct. 23rd

6pm at Liberation Cafe

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 27th
7pm at Liberation Cafe

WORKS IN PROGRESS:
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Letters & Briefs

Activist Kiled by Logger while defending Redwoods

On Thursday, September 17, David Chain was killed when a logger felled a redwood tree sideways in the direction of several activists. The logger had been recorded on videotape an hour earlier shouting obscenities and vowing to get his gun.

The sheriff's office is refusing to press charges, so please call the local District Attorney and demand that charges be brought against the logger. Because charges should already have been filed, please also call the State Attorney General to demand action and ensure that justice is served in this tragic matter. Please call during business hours.

The company, Pacific Lumber, also shares a great deal of blame. The California Department of Forestry had gone of record two days before Chain was killed stating that this was an illegal logging operation. Please call CDF during business hours and insist that all current and future logging operations by Pacific Lumber be suspended pending an investigation into Pacific Lumber's pattern of ignoring environmental laws and safety concerns.

CDF (916) 653-5121

State Attorney General (916) 445-9555

Humboldt District Attorney (707) 445-7411

Street Demonstrations Can Make A Difference

This article appeared in the Olympian September 11, 1998 -"GERMANY HONORS WOMEN WHO STOOD UP TO NAZIS Berlin - Germany has honored a group of German women who stood up to Nazi efforts to deport their Jewish relatives. A plaque unveiled Wednesday commemorated the courage of the women, who gathered in early 1943 on Rosen Streest, in central Berlin, where the Nazis were holding about 1500 Jews -mostly their husbands and children. After several days of protest, Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels ordered the Jews released. Historians are still unsure why he caved in, but some speculate Nazi leaders were afraid the protest would escalate following the German army's setbacks that winter at Stalingrad."

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County is pleased to announce our Fall grant funding cycle. Grant applications for environmental and social change projects are now available to groups and individuals interested in progressive community oriented activities. Grants will be considered up to $1,000. The deadline for complete grant applications is Friday, October 9th, 1998. Grant presentations to the Sustaining Fund Board will be on Saturday October 30th. Grant criteria and application forms are available on request from Traditions: Fair Trade (5th and Water St. Olympia) or by writing CSF, 2103 Harrison NW, Suite 2715, Olympia, WA 98502.

OFS presents the WITNESS program

On the forefront of human rights activism is the WITNESS program, set up by the New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. On behalf of WITNESS and WITNESS partners, WITNESS director Gillian Caldwell will be in Olympia to present films from the WITNESS archive during the 15th Annual Olympia Film Festival. Included in the films being screened will be the Global Survival Network production, Bought and Sold, directed by Ms. Caldwell. For dates and times you can call the Film Society office at (360) 754- 6670. For more information on WITNESS and WITNESS partners please visit their website at www.witness.org.

Diversity Forum sponsored by The Olympia Food Co-op

Thurs., October 1 from 6pm-9pm
Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St., downtown Olympia.

Video presentation of "The Role of Whites in Supporting Affirmative Action", with discussion to follow. Refreshments provided, plus earn working member credit. Diversity forums are free and open to the public. Please call 943-6870 for more information.

Welfare Rights Organizing Committee

Wed., October 7 from 6-8pm
First United Methodist Church

Snacks and child care available. Call 753-4459 for more info or to reserve child care.

Black Hills Alliance Event, "Love Makes A Family"

Sat, October 3rd from 3:30-6pm
Unitarian Universalist Church, 2200 East End NW

The Black Hills Alliance will be holding it's second public event, entitled, "Love makes a family" which will ex-

(Continued on page 14)

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES

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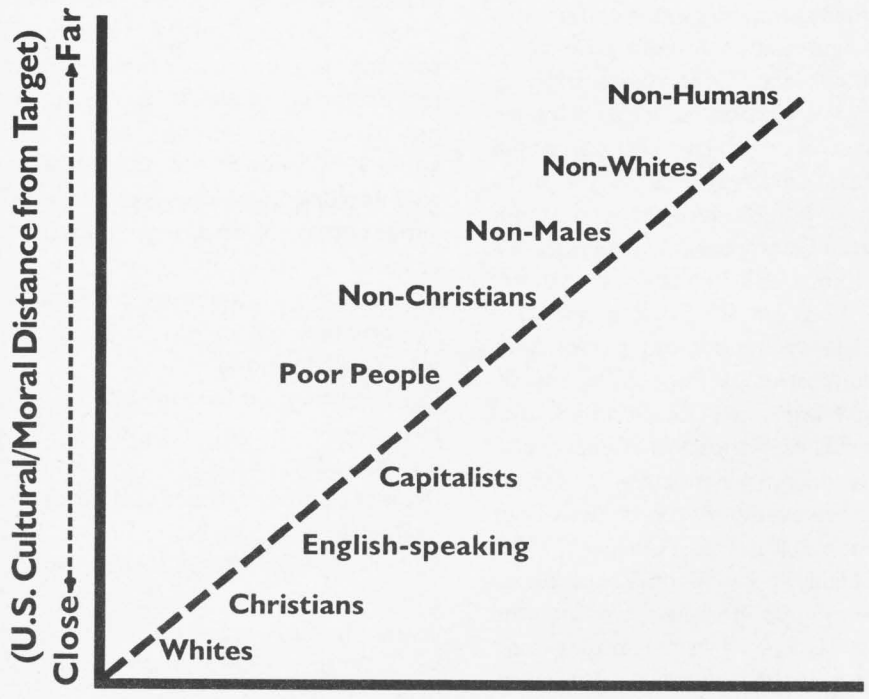
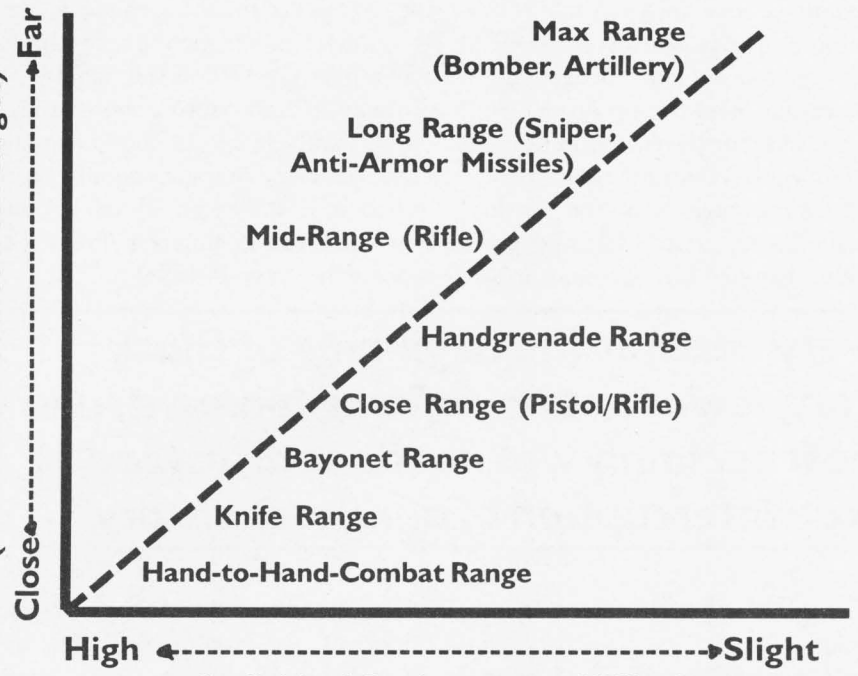
OCTOBER 1998

The bombing of Sudan and Afghanistan

Why was it so easy for the U.S. to do?





"...those who commit atrocities understand that what they are doing will be considered criminal by the rest of the world, and this is why at the level of nation-states they attempt to control their population and press."

Sources: Lt Col Dave Grossman's *On Killing:The psychological cost of learning to kill in war and society*; empirical data

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"We are not responsible for changing the psyche of our oppressors; we are responsible, though, for fighting that oppression, for altering the oppression ...for changing the circumstances of our lives and the constructs under which we live." Audre Lorde		**SEPTEMBER** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**NOVEMBER** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**1** **1937**- Pullman Co. formally recognizes Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters **1974**- Washington: Watergate trial begins	**2** **1986**- U.S. Senate overrides Pres. Reagan's veto 78-21, imposing sanctions on S. Africa **1995** - Jury acquits O.J. Simpson of murder	**3** **1968**- Mexico City: Troops fire on students **1997** - Gary Michel is sworn in as Olympia's 51st police chief replacing John Wurner
4 **1997** - FBI: number of reported crimes in 1996 drop 3% **1997** - Promise Keepers rally held in Washington D.C.	**5** **1997** - Olympia: 150 people protest Nike's global labor practices outside the South Puget Sound Nike Golf Tournament	**6** **1997** - Supreme Court rejects Sandy Nelson's appeal upholding WA state newspapers right to bar reporters from political activity	**7** **1997** - Red Cross acknowledges and apologizes for its "moral failure" in keeping silent while the Nazis murdered 6 million Jews	**8** **1997** - ABC "parental discretion advised" before "Ellen" episode angers Ellen DeGeneres"This is blatant discrimination."	**9** **1966**- U.S. reports Vietnam War costs $2 billion per month 1997 - Hurrican Pauline strikes Mexico killing 118	**10** **1997** - Jody Williams and the organization she started, International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, wins the Nobel Peace Prize
11 National **Coming Out Day** **1997** - Bread & Roses Drop-in Center temporarily closes due to staffing problems	**12** **1971**- Washington: House passes ERA **1973**- Spiro Agnew resigns vice-presidency **1997** - John Denver dies in plane crash	**13** **1987**- Washington: Gloved police arrest 600 people protesting at Supreme Court against upholding Georgia sodomy law	**14** **1960**- Cuba nationalizes banks/ companies **1964**- MLK,Jr awarded Nobel Peace Prize, donates $54,000 prize to civil rights movement	**15** **1962**- Amnesty International established **1986**- Supreme Court testimony: blacks who kill whites disproportionately given death	**16** **1970**- 25 indicted in Kent State shootings; none are Nat'l Guard **1995** - Million Man March held in Washington, D.C.	**17** **1996** - Eikenberry calls GOP women, who announced they support Democrat Gary Locke for governor, "dingbats"
18 **1968**- Mexico: Tommie Smith /John Carlos suspended from Olympics for raising fists in black power salute while getting medals	**19** **1997** - Candace Gingrich speaks in Olympia to support Initiative 677 banning workplace discrimination against homosexuals	**20** **1997** - Education Department report says early exposure to serious math, algebra and geometry opens gate to college for all students	**21** **1958**- Florida: Truman says Ike surrendered to Communists in 1952 **1970**- Ireland: Bernadette Devlin freed from prison	**22** **1973**- AFL-CIO votes to ask Nixon resignation **1995** - Noam Chomsky, speaks at Olympia's Capitol Theater	**23** **1983**- Truck bombs level U.S. Marine post **1997** - The Evergreen State College campus police carry guns for the first time	**24** **1923**- 20,000 Klansmen gather in Dallas **1936**- Berlin: Reich becomes first to recognize Italian conquest of Ethiopia
25 *fall back* **1971**- U.N. to seat Peking, ousts Taiwan **1978**- London: Poll shows one in three think royal family out of touch with reality	**26** **1987**- El Salvador: Human rights advocate Herbert Ernesto Anaya slain **1997** - Million Woman March in Philadelphia	**27** **1967**- Phillip Berrigan splatters blood over Selective Service files **1997** - Dow Jones fell 554 points, the biggest daily point drop ever	**28** **1962**- Khrushchev backs down,withdraws missiles from Cuba **1997** - Dow Jones gains 337, the biggest daily point rise ever	**29** **1929**- Bottom falls out of the Stock Market **1965**- Alaska: U.S. explodes 80-kiloton H-bomb over the Aleutian Islands	**30** **1954**- Sweden's Parliament approves nat'l health care system **1965**- Vietnam: U.S. jets bomb friendly village, killing 48 civilians	**31** **1952**- Bolivia nationalizes 3 tin companies **1965**- Ex-Army intelligence agent says he bugged Eleanor Roosevelt's hotel room

Middle Passage Monument Project

WIP News Service

On July 3, 1999, a monument honoring the lives of the estimated millions of African men, women, and children who died en route to and at the hands of transatlantic slavery between the 15th and 19th centuries will be lowered onto the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, 427 kilometers due east (facing Africa) off New York's harbor.(Five replicas of the Monument will be created for placement on land in the regions of the world historically linked to transatlantic enslavement, namely Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, North America, and South America).

Efforts have begun to have the United Nations declare the spot a sacred burial ground for Black people. The Homeward Bound Foundation, sponsor of the Middle Passage Monument Project, chose the site in honor of the 427 skeletal remains of African people who were unearthed in 1991 when the United States General Services knowingly began excavating a city-block-sized portion of a built-over, 18th-century cemetery (then designated for New York City's Black population), in what is now downtown Manhattan,in order to construct a Federal office tower. (At the time of the Independence War, New York's harbor was the second most active port involved in the handling of enslaved African people, and it is estimated that 10,000 to 20,000 African and early African American people were buried in the African Burial Ground between the late 1600s and when it was reportedly closed in 1796).

Slavery was not the beginning of Black history, it was not its defining moment, and it most certainly was not its end. Instead, it was an interruption of our great history,"

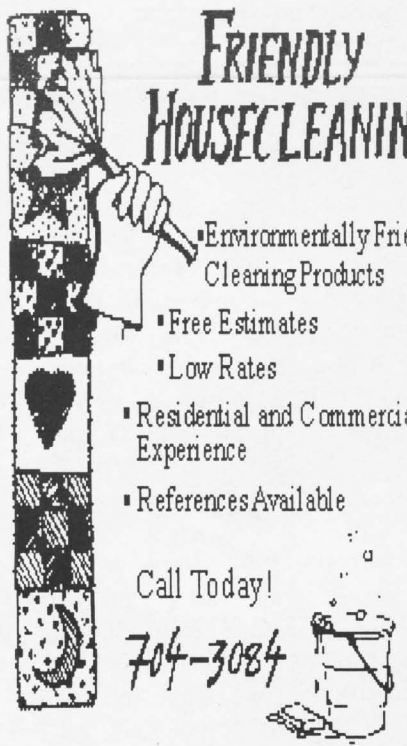
Pope John Paul II and other religious leaders of the world's major faiths, traditional spiritualists from Africa, President Bill Clinton and a host of other world leaders representing nations formerly involved in the transatlantic slave trade, and citizens of the world will be invited to attend the event at sea. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations endorsed the Project, describing it as an opportunity to "help broaden the understanding of African cultures and the heritage of people of African descent."

Discussions are underway with the U.S. Navy to provide a military vessel to serve as the venue for the ceremony, and one of the world's oldest passenger ship specialists has been retained by the Homeward Bound Foundation for securing two vessels to transport people interested in witnessing the event in person from New York's harbor to the Monument site. The event is expected to receive international media coverage.

"If the Atlantic Ocean were to dry up today, we would witness a trail of human bones stretching from Africa to the Americas," said Wayne James, the highly acclaimed fashion designer who graduated from Georgetown University's law school in 1987. Thirty-six-year-old James, born on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, has created garments for such luminaries as Pope John Paul II, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, and the late Diana, Princess of Wales. "Burying the dead is instinctive to human nature; we even bury the bodies of our enemies on battlefields. On July 3, 1999, we will finally lay to rest the souls of our ancestors who perished crossing the Middle Passage while celebrating their survival through us,their descendants," James said.

Artists from around the world, representing disciplines ranging from painting and poetry to jewelry making, fabric design, and sculpture are being invited to compete for the honor of creating the monument. A prize of $50,000 USD will be awarded to the artist whose work is chosen by the panel of twelve, world-renowned artists and scholars. "The Middle Passage Monument Project provides an opportunity for Black people to collectively heal from the atrocities of transatlantic slavery," James said. "As the new millennium approaches, it is important for us to use slavery as a means of strengthening ourselves, acknowledging the fact that we not only survived one of the most dehumanizing acts committed upon humans in recorded history, we excelled," James said. "When put in the context of the vastness and richness of African history, ancient and modern, slavery can be intellectually reduced to a footnote. Slavery was not the beginning of Black history, it was not its defining moment, and it most certainly was not its end. Instead, it was an interruption of our great history," James added. "With a renewed attitude towards ourselves and others, our successes in the 21st century will likely be our greatest monument to our ancestors," he concluded.

For more information on the Homeward Bound Foundation and its Middle Passage Monument Project, contact the Foundation at: Toll Free: 888-334-9229, Phone: 202-333-0911, Fax: 202-362-7684, or visit the Website at: http://www.MiddlePassage.com; Or write to: P.O. Box 25333, Washington, DC 20007. Dionne Gaile Sinclair DGS@WFF-Law.com Phone: (212) 487-9700 Fax: (212) 487-9777



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Up Front

Racism in the '90s: Two Experiences

Jerome Johnson

I was talking about racism with a white person the other day, and he asked about its impact on me. How it felt, and so on. Because he was truly grappling with it, honestly trying to understand, I told him. I talked about several incidents from my past, as well as historical cases. We reviewed the civil rights movement, from the 40s to now, our participation in it, and how our experiences are different. At last, he shook his head. "For a long time, I thought that if we resolved the class struggle, we'd pretty much end racism automatically. Now, I'm beginning to agree with you. We have to handle race as an issue."

I grinned. "You're not alone. Data from the mid-'80s early '90s is coming in now, and a whole lot of middle-class black folks are shocked. They thought the same way you did—if they could just make it up there to the middle class, or even beyond, they'd leave bigotry behind. They thought that if you're smart enough to make that kind of money, you're too enlightened to be a racist or a homophobe or an anti-Semite. Well, you can imagine their shock the first afternoon they took their daughter to her first soccer practice. Not only was she the only person of color on the team, but probably the first. And then they found the same old stuff—the stares, questions, whispers. You can almost hear them trying to figure out how to live up to their liberal ideas—IF it's a liberal community—now that it's time to walk their talk. "

He looked at me. "How has racism directly affected you? In the '90s?"

I sat back and sipped. "Last year, I got a call from a friend of mine who was a student at a local high school. Senior. Well, he called one morning and he was very upset. The teacher had stepped out of the room for a few minutes, and while Johnny was reading his textbook, someone wrote WHITE POWER on the blackboard. He didn't see exactly who. But one white student saw the look on his face and looked at the board. That student got up and erased the board, mumbling an apology. The teacher came back in, and no one said anything, but Johnny called me as soon as class was over.

"So I drove to the school. On the way I couldn't help but remember how many times my mother had done the same thing thirty years ago, coming to school to help me deal with the intense racism I faced every day.

"As soon as he saw me, Johnny shook his head. 'I got to get out of this school, man,' he said. 'I can't take this any more.'

"Well, I spent the next hour and a half with him. By that time, he'd calmed enough to go back to class, and I spent more time with him after school. I told him some of my history, and my determination not to let the racists force me out of school. Johnny understood when I explained that the racist who'd written that would like nothing better than to see Johnny quit, and lose his high school diploma."

"And?"

"Johnny hung in there and graduated that June," I said. "Now I've got another one for you. This one happened in Bellingham last April. Mother and I were there for a convention. Well, we'd made our reservations in February for April 17. We verified them by phone on April 2 and again three days in advance.

By now I was beginning to feel that familiar icy clench in my gut, the one I always get when dealing with racism.

"Well, after a 2 1/2 hour drive, we got there a little after six in the morning. We walked into the lobby and up to the desk, where we were coolly greeted by a white man in his early 20s. I explained who we were, that we were there for the convention and that we had reservations, and gave our room number.

"He quickly sifted through his paperwork and said, 'I'm sorry, we don't have a reservation for you and the hotel is full.' He didn't look one damned bit sorry.

"By now I was beginning to feel that familiar icy clench in my gut, the one I always get when dealing with racism. I politely asked him to double check, and Mother added that we'd made the reservation in February and verified it only three days ago. He punched keys, then said, 'Sorry, but there's no reservation for you.' I asked to see the manager and was told he was 'unavailable,' and the clerk didn't know when he'd be back. His tone was final.

"At this point I was so angry I could barely talk. The look on his face dispelled any idea that this was just a simple glitch. I grabbed our bags and stalked back out to the car. Mother asked me to wait, maybe she could do something. I told her I'd wait in the car, I had to get out of there before I said or did something we'd both regret.

"She came out a few minutes later, shaking her head. We had to have lodging because she'd already paid to attend the convention, so we drove to another motel and checked in with no trouble.

"But I couldn't let this just go. So after about an hour, after I promised Mother I wouldn't get arrested, we went back.

"The shifts had changed. This time the clerk was a white woman in her late 20s. Again I explained who we were and why we were there. With three taps of her computer she had our reservation and paperwork ready—with no trouble at all. It was the right room, in the smoking section. In less than five minutes we were in the room—which had only one bed.

"We went back to the desk. 'No problem,' she said, and in less time than it takes to tell it we had another room, with two beds.

"But I thought the hotel was full, I said to her. 'The guy before said it was, no room at all, even if we could pay.'

"The smile vanished from her face. 'He did?' A frown. 'No, even with the convention we have a few rooms left. He asked if you could pay?'

"I nodded. I told her what had happened, and she apologized profusely. She gave her name and urged us to call if we needed anything."

My friend looked at me, and shook his head in sorrow.

In Cambodia, Hun Sen tightens an ever-bloodier grip on power.

In the Middle East, Yasser Arafat continues to prepare Palestine for statehood at the turn of the century.

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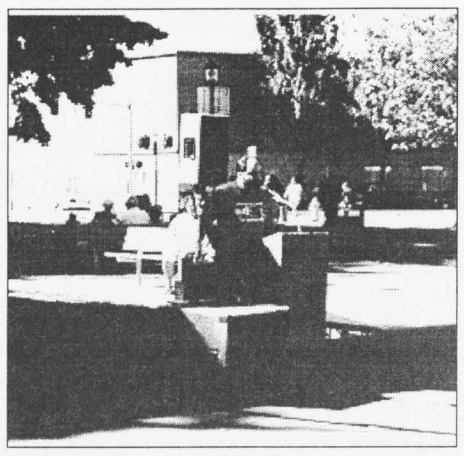
Labor Day Speech: My Experience at the Post Office



Clint Burelson

I am a shop steward and editor for the Olympia Local of the American Postal Workers Union. I am also active with the Olympia Political Cultural Center, perhaps better known as Liberation Cafe.

I was asked to tell the story of my experiences with the Post Office. I was fired from the Post Office 4 years ago because of my union activities. I filed a grievance and it took 3 years for the arbitration, but I finally won my job back just before Christmas last year.

Often times when folks think about the Post Office, they think of the violence associated with postal workers shooting up the place. What I want to do is share some of my observations of the Postal Service so that the violence we all hear about and the Postal Service's treatment towards me and others you may hear about makes some sort of sense. I will end with an observation about why the story I am about to tell you is not well known.

The Postal Service is a huge organization. There are over one million workers at the Post Office. If privatized, it would be one of the biggest corporations in the United States. There are more pieces of mail processed in one week at the Post Office, than UPS and Fed Ex combined process in a year.

People also need to see the Postal Service as a media organization. People receive a lot of information through the mail. The cost of sending that information is important to the question of democracy in this country. Originally, and still today on paper anyway, the phrase, "binding the nation together" is the idea behind the post office. What this meant was that through the U.S. mail, there would be a sharing of information that was horizontal, that was mutual, that flowed in different directions. Periodicals and books were given discounts on the mailing rates because that type of information exchange was valued and thought to be healthy for a democratic society.

Corporations have no problem seeing the post office as a media organization. As we all know, big businesses frequently use the mail for their advertising. Corporations use their huge resources to influence the direction of the Post Office— just like they influence every other form of media, from television and radio to books and magazines. The U.S. mail is one of the only affordable means of communication left to non profit organizations. If we can't communicate— we can't organize.

Workers are the majority in this country, it's about time we act like it.

The pressure from major corporations has been pushing the Post Office to do a number of things that will benefit the big business community in general. One of the main thrusts is to change the rate system so that large corporations get the discounts. They want to turn the rate system on it's head so that it is more in line with other media organizations in that size and money rules. Large corporations would like to take away the discounts for the non-profits and give the discounts to the large corporate mailers. They want to put market values in to an organization that was supposed to support democratic values.

In addition, corporations also want to lower costs for mailing by lowering the wages of postal workers, contracting out whenever possible, speeding up the workforce, and replacing workers with automation whenever they can.

Finally, many indiviudal corporations want to take over the profitable functions of the Post office. Larger chunks of the Post Office are more and more being contracted out to larger corporations.

Standing in the way of these changes are the postal unions. Consequently, the corporations, together with postal management, are attacking the unions directly— preventing them from addressing the problems in the workplace. Often times, postal management simply ignores valid and documented grievances at the local and regional level, in order to delay the resolution of workplace concerns. While the grievance slowly works its way through the grievance procedure, management can continue to act in the manner they desire. Nationally, there exists a huge grievance backlog because of management's undeclared war on the workers.

The result is this sometimes very intense workplace where a war is being fought. The real violence in the Post Office is coming from postal management who are operating in a military-like fashion to squeeze workers to the exploding point. I have had more than one steward say that when they come to work, it's like entering a battlefield. Another steward, a Vietnam Veteran, told me it was worse than war, because in war you can kill your enemy. The violence at the Post Office that you hear about is partly due to the lack of a civil and timely way of resolving disputes.

My Union here in Olympia was targeted for attention because managers in the Postal Service said the Union was running the Post Office in Olympia. That wasn't quite the case, but we were getting strong due to our determination to put our grievances in writing, to use group actions to influence working conditions and to simply bring life into the Post Office. We were intent on removing the separation between work and life. We spend a lot of time at work and we were going to make it enjoyable.

We held off the intensified attacks on our Local for some time but then, upper management just blitzed us by bringing in a whole new bunch of managers and front-line supervisors who basically terrorized the workers and stopped all real communication with the Union. We lost three people permanently to stress and had one person kill himself.

The majority of the people retreated under this onslaught. A handful of us remained who continued to fight back— to uphold the contract— to articulate that work should be a pleasant place. Because I was the one still requesting steward time on the clock and putting the grievances in writing, I became especially targeted for discipline and continual monitoring. I have been disciplined for my union activities since I first became active in the Union. I have been disciplined over 15 times In most workplaces, the employer can discipline, even fire you for any reason and there is not much you can do about it. In a union workplace, there must be "just cause." Consequently, the suspensions against me were usually turned into "vacations" because I received back pay. Still, discipline was continued against me to discourage others from getting too active.

Finally, the Post Office fired me after an incident in August of 1994. I was requesting steward time from my supervisor and trying to get an answer as to when I could go on steward time. The supervisor refused to answer simple questions and told me to go back to work. The conversation was just 90 seconds long. I was told to clock out and subsequently I was fired.

I got my job back after 3 and 1/2 years of being out of work. I am still awaiting my back pay. I am back at work and I'm spending the majority of my time on the clock performing my steward duties. I recently settled a bunch of grievances in which the Postal Service had been denying me steward time. The settlement was for $10,000 dollars which I believe is the largest settlement for steward time denial in the country.

That's part of my story, and you won't hear it or other similar stories on the 6:00 news or on CNN so I just want to add one point which I feel is important for the Labor Movement to consider if we want to have some real power in this country, in this town, and in our working lives.

We don't have democracy in this country when the media is market driven— when the amount of voice you have is determined by the amount of money you have. The media is not some neutral party. It is largely owned and operated by corporations. Just like our union publications reflect our union values, the corporate media reflect their corporate values. In addition, compounding the bias inherent in any corporation is the fact that the revenue of media organizations come mainly from other corporations in the form of advertising. In the unlikely event a media corporation would start to get worker friendly, the business advertisers, by pulling their ads, or threatening to pull their ads will ensure that the media remains business friendly.

We need to educate ourselves and the community that the media is undemocratic. It is ridiculous to expect favorable coverage of worker issues from a corporation. In order to point this out and to talk about our issues with our own voices, we are going to have to develop and promote our own media. Events like this is one way to share out stories. Currently, we are not using public radio, public access TV, and our own union and community newspapers as much as we can. We have to increase out use of available public media. Unions have finally gotten around to investing in union organizers. The next step will have to include an investment in media activists if we hope to gain the voice necessary for a real movement for social justice. Workers are the majority in this country, it's about time we act like it.

See Clint's article next month on his visit to Detroit and participation in the Detroit News Strike!

A very special thank you to all the contributors that made the WIP birthday party a success:

+ Cascadia EarthFirst!
+ Chelsea Chase, teenage artist extraordinaire
+ KAOS 89.3 FM
+ Kendra and Pat of the Danger Room
+ Mike Cobb and Cobbworks
+ Ray Grace and the Olympia Community Yoga Center
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98 IWW General Assembly

Eric Chase

Over Labor Day weekend, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) met in Portland, Oregon for their General Assembly. This was the largest gathering of "wobblies" since 1951, bringing in nearly one hundred members from Canada, the United States and Australia. Four members of the local Olympia branch, David Griffiths, Peter Sieffert, Frank Hoffman and Eric Chase attended as did "wobs" from a Detroit newspaper collective, dock workers from San Francisco, construction workers from Butte and Salt Lake City, pirate radio operators from Memphis, musicians from Minneapolis, stage hands, educators, state workers, health care workers and Earth First!ers from all over.

This broad and diverse group met to discuss issues facing the union, resolutions, amendments to the IWW constitution as well as the nomination of officers and establishment of committees. The Industrial Workers of the World is a non-hierarchical labor union with only one paid position, that of the General Secretary-Treasurer. The union organizes along industrial lines unlike trade unions such as the AFL-CIO which organizes by specific trades. Industrial unionism provides for a common voice within the entire industry preventing one union from scabbing on another. An example of this could be if the baggage handlers of an airline went out on strike, the ticket counter staff could be called in to do the baggage handlers' jobs. This hamstrings the ability of the baggage handlers to force concessions from management. Industrial unionism unites all workers within that industry, from clerks to pilots, from mechanics to janitors into one industrial union under the banner, "An injury to one, is an injury to all".

The union organizes along industrial lines unlike trade unions such as the AFL-CIO which organizes by specific trades.

With a non-hierarchical approach, the Industrial Workers of the World retains half of its dues at the local branch or job shop level where organizing funds are needed. There is no such thing as a "dues check-off". You pay dues to another human being (typically between $5-$15 per month). This person is voted in by local members as a delegate and is not appointed by the upper levels of the union—none exists! This too is unlike trade unions which deduct dues directly from your paycheck. Many times, trade unionists don't even know who their shop steward is. This reduces the direct democracy of voluntarily paying dues into an automated process within the employers payroll program. This removes the voice of the rank and file and their right to refuse to pay dues if the union is no longer in the interest of the worker. The IWW tends to be a do it yourself union. There is no chain of command to clear organizing activities.

The lone salaried position within the IWW is the office of General Secretary Treasurer. This is not a position of authority, but instead an annually elected position for head paper shuffler. The nominations for GST this year go to incumbent Fred Chase from Ypsilanti, Michigan, with 3 years experience as General Secretary Treasurer, and perhaps the youngest nominee, veteran organizer Alexis Buss from Philadelphia. The young men and women who are increasingly becoming IWW members are going to change the union; making a good organization better, an old organization new. The IWW is preparing to blossom again.

IWW Facilitators, Minnie and Tim, from Portland.

Labor Day's General Assembly was more than just business as usual. It was an opportunity to meet other wobblies from across the country and world, exchange ideas, put faces to names and make new friends. It was a chance to talk about the past and recommit ourselves to the future; the abolishment of the wage system and an end to capitalism. Sure these are lofty goals, but states don't smash themselves. The Industrial Workers of the World is open to all working class people without the direct power to hire or fire.

For more info: www.iww.org or call Eric at 786-0864.

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All They Will Say is "Just Deportees"

Yolanda Cruz

The following is reprinted from Puntos de Vista *an alternative newspaper in Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

We are members of the Chatino community, and indigenous people from Oaxaca, Mexico. We have and organization called SNII KCHAA (children of the Sun). Our purpose is to seek self sufficiency for our people so we won't be driven to leave our communities and suffer the injustices and explotation of the capitalist society in the United States, as was the case with the 17-year-old woman, Maria whom Yolanda writes about.

Every week there are dozens of young people leaving our community, San Juan, Oaxaca, to come to the U.S. They face extortion from "coyotes" (people-traffickers), Mexican government officials and police. Sometimes they get robbed in the cities by bandits who take all their money and leave them with nothing. In addition to that, if they ever make it to the U. S., they must face the INS, racism and will end up working for slave wages in dead-end jobs.

Here is our address if people are interested in working with our organization or other indigenous organizations from Oaxaca. We are actively seeking people with specific skills such as dentists, doctors and clothing designers to go and volunteer in our communities.

SNII KCHAA
P.O. Box 7394
Olympia, Washington 98507
(360) 352-6342

Hilaria Cruz,
Snii Kchaa coordinator

For two weeks I was on the phone looking for the body of Maria Santos. She died of heat and exhaustation while crossing the border in Texas. Her whole family has been calling me at my home in Washington; first her husband in Chicago, then her brother in Atlanta, and then her mother in our village of San Juan. Everyone cried and pleaded with me to please help them get Maria's body from the INS in Texas.

Last year I arranged for a dead man's body to return to our community. In our culture, we Chatinos believe that a dead body must return to the land where it was born, otherwise our ancestors won't rest in peace. This unfortunately is becoming a very expensive tradition, since now we have to transport bodies from the US. After many days we located the body in Brownsville TX, and we had to go and identify it in order to get it released and sent back to Mexico through Oaxaca, to Juquila, and then to San Juan.

***

I got to the Houston airport at 5 a.m. and had to wait until 11 a.m. to pick up Marcos the husband of Maria Santos. Marcos like most people from my village had never taken an airplane; he was scared of airports and airplanes.

Since Marcos didn't know how to read or write and only knew a few words of Spanish and not a single one of English, my flight was arranged so that it would get there a few hours before Marcos'. I wondered how I would recognize him. What would he be wearing? What would I say? "Sorry, she should have been more careful when she crossed the border?" Could I ask "Why did she decide to come?"

But I already knew all of Maria's reasons. She only had two choices in her life, one to work from sunset to sundown in a coffee plantation earning fifty cents per day or be a servant in a house in the city, working from six in the morning until eight o'clock at night. Being treated like a dog, sleeping on the floor, eating the left over food in the kitchen and then earning 10 dollars a month. I did...

When they announced the arrival of the flight, the memory of Marcos voice came to me. As soon as I saw a tired young man, shaking as he walked towards me, I knew it was him. As we waited for the plane to Brownsville, he told me, "We met two years ago. She was 15 and I was 17 . We lived together for a year and then we decided to get married. I worked making adobe bricks. I saw how people left every week to come to el norte, and there was no way I could make enough for our wedding if I stayed. I said that I would come back once I had enough. Some how it never seemed to happen. I called often. She missed me. She begged me to come back, that we didn't need to have a big ceremony. I promised to come back in May, but when June 15 came and I hadn't yet returned, she called and said, 'I'm on my way.' I told her that I would return soon, but she came anyway."

When we arrived at the airport entry gate in the border town of Brownsville, Texas, immigration was waiting like a hungry dog. The immigration officer kept looking at Marcos and tried to intimidate us. The Mexican consulate sent someone to pick us up. At the consulate in Brownsville the counsel's assistant welcomed us. He spoke loud and fast from his dark lazy boy chair half hidden behind his desk. "We are here to help you," he said.

"What kind of help can you give? I replied.

"Well, we can find you cheap transportation for the body. That is as good as money."

"But can you give us some money?" I asked.

"Money, no. Imagine if we paid to send everyone who dies back home! We would have no money left!"

Outside in the hallway of the consulate the mortician waited. He was a small man with a big belly and dusty white hair. He said, "I'm going to try to give you my best deal."

I asked the consul assistant "Do you have a list of the prices for funeral homes?"

"Oh, no, but you already have one. They are the cheapest."

"Well, I'd like to compare prices," I told him.

"No, work with this funeral home; they are the cheapest."

***

We found a motel close to the bridge that crosses into Mexico. We left the motel to go to a restaurant that was a few steps away. We sat near a window with a broad view of Mexico. We had just ordered our food when we saw an immigration van parked right in front of us. Marcos' face was pale, and I began to shake. I keep telling Marcos in a soft voice, "Do not turn to see them. Act like you belong here."

He turned away from the window. The workers in the restaurant stopped their activities and mumbled, "Maybe they are looking for someone. who could it be?" We waited for them to come inside. I was furious for not having my video camera. What would I be able do if they decided to take him? What could I tell them? I knew that they would stop him as soon as we came out of the restaurant. After 20 minutes they got into their van as if they were leaving, but they just parked closer to the door. A couple of hundred years ago, we would have run to fight them, but now we have become so weak that we find the smallest place in which to hide.

When immigration finally left, Marcos ran to the motel. I was shaking as I poured the food into carry-out containers. My heart was pumping like a crazy horse. Marcos spent the rest of the day in the motel.

***

The next day, the undertaker and I drove to Santa Rosa so we could pick up the body and ship it to Mexico, where all the proper burial ceremonies could take place. We had to drive about three hours across Texas, which included passing through an immigration check point. Before we left, we found a cheap hotel in Brownsville to hide Marcos from immigration.

After many days we located the body in Brownsville TX, and we had to go and identify it in order to get it released and sent back to Mexico through Oaxaca, to Juquila, and then to San Juan.

Maria's remains had been placed in a sealed metal casket. The only way I could recognize Maria was because the police showed me her traditional dress, her jewelry, and her love notes in a plastic bag. The clothes she died in had rotted with her. Although they smelled of death, I took her things in the plastic bag. I had to take her and all her things back at all costs, otherwise her soul would not be able to rest.

When we finally got the paperwork finished so the body could be released, we put the metal coffin in the back of a little station wagon. The body had been in the coffin for 3 weeks. Immigration found her five days after she had died. The body had a strong smell, the mortician Moises, sprayed the station wagon with some strawberry-scented deodorant that he carried for that purpose. the scents of strawberries mixed with dead body, dead spirit, was not good on a burning hot day in Texas. Every molecule of that smell got into me, penetrated into my guts. There was no way to forget that we were driving with a dead body. I wanted to cry, vomit, open the window to escape, but I couldn't because the heat outside was greater and would intensify the smell. The putrid smell filled my nostrils. I had a headache and wanted to run, to scream that I had had enough.

***

After we rescued Maria from the funeral home, the police and the INS, we had to drive to the Mexican consulate in Brownsville once more to get permission for the coffin to travel into Mexico.

When the consul's assistant saw me getting out of the car with the dead body inside, he said again, "Remember, we are here to help you." He worked very closely with morticians and was the one who recommended Moises to the family without providing other choices. The profits from this operation were shared by the consulate, the Mexican mortero and the U.S. mortician.

As I left, he said, "Tell me something, are there a lot of people like you in your village?"

I was in rage with the stupidity of this petty official. I said,"-You know, we indigenous people are very smart and capable people, we just don't get the opportunity to learn your system."

***

The next morning, in the hotel window, our God, the sun, was waking up. We Chatinos think of the sun as our father. The first thing our elders do upon wakening in the morning is pray to the sun as it rises above the green hills. They asked the sun to light our way while we are on this earth, and that we don't forget our dead.

Maria's body was already on its way to Mexico, but her soul was with us. The room was filled with the smell of her body. I knew she was there to say goodbye to her partner. I felt sad, lonely and angry. I thought of myself and my first love -- how I, too, would have done something as crazy as she, cross any border to be with the love of my life.

I wanted to go back to sleep, but I was afraid she would come near me and ask, "Why have our Gods forgotten us?" The air of the room was filled with her, the smell of rotten flesh and of the years of these bloody battles. I turned the light on and opened the window; I was scared.

* * *

The moment arrived when we had to play our luck and get on an airplane going to Houston. I was carrying my video equipment and loaded camera home.

We were getting ready to board the plane when Marcos was stopped by immigration. They asked him who had bought his ticket. I told them that I had helped him check in. Then they asked him who had bought his ticket. I told them I had helped him check. Then they

(Continued next page)

El Salvador: Five Years Later

Bob Zeigler

I visited El Salvador this summer as part of an ITAMA delegation. ITAMA is a Salvadoran Non-Profit organization that works to empower communities and incorporates environmental protection and restoration in its development projects. I had visited San Salvador and a squatters community in 1993 and was returning to El Salvador for the first time in five years. There had been some changes since the last time I visited. Some were very positive. Others were very detrimental.

Thanks to free trade and globalization, San Salvador looked now a lot like L.A. The airport and the roads from the airport were upgraded. The capitol city now has malls with theaters and Szechuan and Thai restaurants. There were Texaco starmarts and supermarkets where one could pay with credit cards. Everywhere there were U.S. fast food restaurants: McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, Dentucky Fried Chicken, Dominos and Subway. U.S. immigration policy and deportation of youth in gangs has given El Salvador, LA-style gangs and 30,000 gang members. El Salvador is the most violent nation in Latin American and experiences 9,000 murders a year. The numbers of dead now equal the number of people assassinated or killed in the war. Much of the violence is gang related or merchant and/or police attacks on the gangs.

El Salvador suffers from neoliberal trade policies and structural adjustment that ensure the rich will become richer and the poor will become poorer. Resources are taken from education and health care to promote foreign investment (often in the form of sweat shops in Free Trade Zones). One very bright student leader was unable to attend more than one year of high school because it cost him between $60 and $70 U.S. each month to attend school. This places secondary school beyond the means of the vast majority of young people in El Salvador.

Ninety-eight percent of the cooperatives are in danger of losing their land because of the high taxes placed on the cooperatives and a lack of markets where producers could receive a fair wage. This issue will have to be again dealt with in the Assembly. It is hoped that an FMLN majority in the Assembly and potentially the presidency might make needed changes to keep cooperatives on the land.

On the positive side, the general atmosphere seemed more relaxed. The army was off the streets and the new civilian police are a major improvement over the intimidating National and Treasury Police. The Army base had a cartoon of them helping a campesino and a sign read, "We are the builders of the peace." It seemed incongruous because the army had killed tens of thousands of civilians during the war.

One manifestation of the more relaxed atmosphere was that relatively few people smoked now compared with five years ago.

Another positive element: the air quality in the capitol had improved.

In the countryside the most positive change was the development of strong women leaders who were a definite presence. They questioned injustice and the structures where there was little work for women, too few schools and educational opportunities for children. Some of the women were reaching into traditional male occupations. They were being trained to become electricians and plumbers. They possessed a sense of fairness and compassion for the people, determination and courage - a very powerful combination.

One of the reason for the tour of El Salvador was to participate in the peasants' efforts to develop a Local Zone of Peace. In this 109 village region they were working to restructure their entire society and eliminate sexism, racism, paternalism, environmental exploitation. The purpose of the Local Zone of Peace is to promote economic development, restoration of the environment, develop a culture of equity and respect for human rights and teach methods of nonviolent conflict resolution.

Considering all the national and international forces to discourage empowerment of the poor, I had thought that the Local Zone of Peace was unattainable. However, after meeting the women who had helped develop it, I felt more confident this structural remake would actually come about.

For more information on the Local Zone of Peace, ITAMA or its sister organization, Foundation for Self Sufficiency, contact:

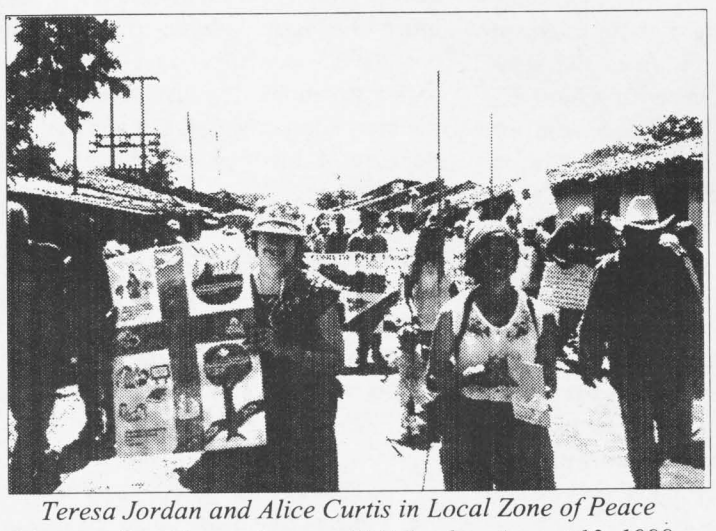
Jose "Chencho" Alas
Foundation for Self-Sufficiency
11 Lisa Rae
Round Rock, Texas 78664
512/388-7957 or itama@texas.net

Jonathan Heller at 206/547-7565 or jonathan@ecotope.com; and Bob Zeigler at 360/491-7050

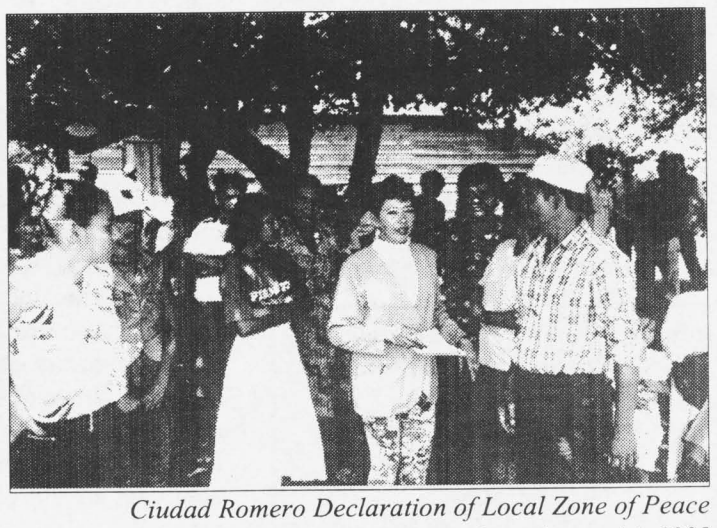
Considering all the national and international forces to discourage empowerment of the poor, I had thought that the Local Zone of Peace was unattainable.

Banner sent from Olympia for Local Zone of Peace March -- San Marcos Lempa, El Salvador, August 13, 1998

Sharon Miller, American Jewish World Service with school children in San Hilaria, El Salvador



Teresa Jordan and Alice Curtis in Local Zone of Peace March -- San Marcos Lempa, El Salvador, August 13, 1998



Ciudad Romero Declaration of Local Zone of Peace -- Women Leaders, August 14, 1998

The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association

Come Celebrate with Us on October 19th!

The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association (TSTSCA) invites you to help celebrate over 10 years of local solidarity between the peoples of Thurston County and Santo Tomas, Nicaragua at our annual meeting/potluck.

A non-profit community organization founded in 1988, the TSTSCA is committed to promoting peace and a just relationship through activities that support self-determination and self-sufficiency for the Nicaraguan people. We also foster sustained relationships and greater understanding between the peoples of Santo Tomas and Thurston County through the development of personal friendships, community ties, and people-to-people exchanges.

Come learn more about our growing organization and how you can get involved. The potluck starts at 6pm on Monday, October 19th, so bring your favorite dish or beverage to share! Dinner will be followed by an exciting joint presentation by the Spring, 1998 Evergreen Student Delegation and the Bray-Dakin family, all of who recently returned from Santo Tomas, Chontales, Nicaragua.

The event will be held at the United Methodist Church on the corner of Legion and Boundary on the Eastside of Olympia. Don't miss it!

(Deportees, continued)

asked me if I had helped him buy his ticket. I said I didn't know him, and then I asked those INS officials if I could interview him because I was a filmmaker. When I raised my camera to frame him, Marcos looked at me like mouse about to be devoured; I tried to make eye contact with him to let him know that I was sorry, but there was nothing I could do.

He whispered in Chatino, "Do you still have some money? Can you give me two hundred so I can pay the 'coyote'?"

I said, "Are you nuts? if these immigration officers see me giving you money, they are going to arrest me, too."

When my plane came, I walked to it without saying good-bye to Marcos. I was heavy with thoughts. This continent was our land before it was anybody else's. Mama, Tata! What had we done to deserve this? No one should have to give their life to offer their labor.

What Prisons Are All About

It's No Longer About Crime

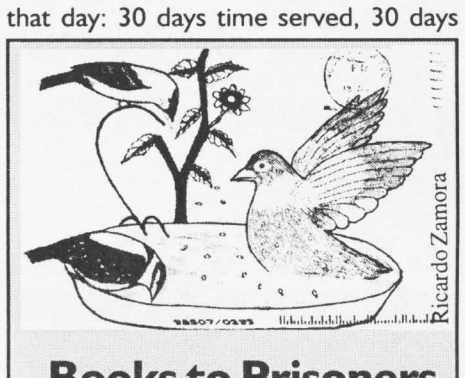
Ted Sotelo

I've just read your February '98 *Works In Progress*. "Exposing the myths about prison" by Sonja Siuesid is sad but true. What I have to tell you is of another situation on who, how, and why, and it is happening more and more to people, or at least some, who shouldn't be in prison. This is about the case I'm here on, and how I was put here [in prison].

I was riding with some people when we were pulled over. I had a warrant for failure to appear, to pay on fines. I was patted down and nothing was found on me. When I was patted down again in Kitsap County jail, four or five empty one-inch baggies were found on me, in my shirt pocket. I cannot say if they were really there or not, I don't know.

Anyway, nothing was said or done about them then. I took care of my F.T.A. and was released. Four or five months later I was delivered a summons, it didn't say what it was for. I'm very irresponsible when it comes to court and I missed the court date. I didn't run, I just didn't go. So I was picked up again. I'd been charged with possession of meth. They had scraped out the bags and come up with enough residue for their lab test, I was told. I never did see them. I went to court and was appointed a public defender, a Mr. Hawey out of case law office. After being in jail for two weeks he brought me the state's first plea bargain: nine months. I refused it telling him that I wanted to go to a jury trial, that I wanted our own lab test taken and for him to make sure the evidence used was from what was taken off me.

On my 30th day I was going back into court. Mr. Hawey shows up and tells me the state has another offer of 90 days. I asked him about the test. His reply was that this offer is better, it would put me out that day: 30 days time served, 30 days good time and 30 days converted to public service. Wanting out of jail I signed it. He then tells me that the prosecuting attorney might bring up not being sure about my points. I told that the state had an investigation done in 1994 on my record to determine my points. I hadn't been in any trouble since then, so they should be the same, and that the state has a record of this. He says, "Good, we'll have no problem then. I'll see you in court later today." He then tells me not to be changing my mind at the last minute in court, that it would make the court mad.



Books to Prisoners October Events

- Books to Prisoners has moved to the downstairs back room at Bull Dog News.
- Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Bulldog News, 116 E. 4th, Olympia. *Training takes about 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime Bulldog is open.*
- **Friday, Oct 2nd** - Artwalk - 5-10pm at Bulldog News. All new prison art "From the Inside Out". Various mediums by inmates in the Books to Prisoner's display.
- **Friday, Oct 16th** - Poetry for Prisoners - A host of local poets will read at Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News. $4 donation/$1 off for one "really good book"!
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month (Oct 18th), 3 pm at Liberation Cafe 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia
- Turn in Bayview and Ralph's receipts. Please bring in or mail all the receipts you can. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.
- **Save the UPC code from Western Family Products** and send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

Why I didn't catch what they were doing, I don't know. I guess I tried to believe in our system. That even if you get into trouble, that they're going to try to help you get your life together. Not to destroy it...

Why I didn't catch what they were doing I don't know. I guess I tried to believe in our system. That even if you get into trouble, that they're going to try to help you get your life together. Not to destroy it...

When we go to court the prosecutor goes into the sentencing as far as to me asking when and where to go to for this public service work. Now the state says that they're not sure of how many points I have. They ask for a continuance of 30 days, but they'll go ahead and P.R. me out of jail. It was all granted to them, not my lawyer, by the judge. No one questioned how they had been able to give me two different plea bargains without knowing my points, and now P.R.ing me out of jail when I had an F.T.A. on this in the first place.

I ask myself now, how and why they could do this and get away with it at sentencing, knowing I was going to do some kind of time out of it. This is the same prosecuting attorney's office that in 1994, after I had appeared at every court date on a different charge, immediately had me locked up when they found out I had a record at all.

So, I'm released not understanding for certain whether I've been sentenced or not, or if what I'm showing back up for in 30 days is just a review on my points.

The day I was to be in court, my brother had moved here, bringing a girl I knew and her three boys. They both got into drugs really bad and he left her. All the drug dealers knew her well; the first and third of the month they were there to collect what she owed and everything else. When I showed up, no rent, bills or food, nothing had been paid for, so I put everything in my name and was able to get her some food.

I was picked up later and found out that I was going to be charged with bail jumping. I find out Mr. Hawey had passed my case of possession over to somebody else in his law firm who didn't know anything about what happened earlier with the case.

I was given John McGiallard on the bail jump, who finds out I have 5 points, 6 would carry 9 to 12 months on the possession charge. (The state's first offer.)

The state had my record investigated in 1994 to figure my points, and had it on file. So, why and how were they able to give me a plea bargain for 90 days? Once a person takes a plea bargain, pleads guilty, he can not withdraw it. But the state can then back out. Some people would have you believe that this is good work on the prosecuting attorney's behalf.

Let's get back to the bail jump. Mr. McGiallard comes to me and tells me that I'm at 6 points now, the charge carries 17 to 22 months in prison. I can't believe it... the state will do me a favor, run the two charges concurrent and recommend 17 months, if I plead guilty and take their plea bargain. If I don't they will see to it that the charges are run consecutively. I did miss my court date so they will find me guilty, I have to take it.

In the meantime, they take me back into court for sentencing on the possession. They tell the judge that they're still not sure of my points. This was a different judge, and he got a little upset with them. I wish he would have known the whole affair because by now I'm seeing how convenient it is for them to use or misuse this point system as a means to get what they want.

It ends up I go into sentencing on both charges at the same time, at 6 points now. The state reads the plea bargain for 17 months and it looks like that's what I'm going to get. But at 6 points the possession carries only nine to twelve months county time, so the state now says that they're still not sure of this one possible point. I tell the judge what it was about. The state then says that if their memory serves them right that it was a crime of over $300.00 so that would make it a felony here. All that time to check on my points and they still don't know. They didn't bother looking at their records for the facts. My lawyer doesn't say anything, so my sentence range goes up to 22 to 29 months.

I end up getting, now at seven points, one year, one day on the possession and 22 months on the bail jump, run concurrent. I had to wait until I get here [prison] to get the paper work on the point in question from Roger Hunko, an attorney who did the investigation on my behalf in 1994. This report from the state shows that it was a $40.00 object, a misdemeanor and therefore not a point. I sent it to J. McGiallard, my attorney, and nothing was done. So I put in a motion to the court for a modification to correct the sentence, to bring it down to the plea bargain of 17 months, the plea bargain offered. You'd think it would be the least they could do. That was March 12, 1998. I haven't heard anything about it except for a threatening letter from the state saying that if I don't drop it by April 20, 1998, they will file charges on me for violating the plea bargain agreement, in that I'm not supposed to file any kind of motions on any part of it. I didn't drop it; I'm now waiting to see what happens.

So here I am doing 22 months, where I find out because of the possession, I have community placement. They will need to approve of an address to release me to. I don't have one to give to them, so they can keep me here for an extra year, or until I get an address that they will approve of.

Because of the bail jump, I'm considered an escape risk. This means no pre-release, or work camp, or work release. Nothing to prepare myself for getting out. Forty dollars will be it. If I were here for anything else, just possession, robbery, burglary, rape, arson, etc. I could go to any of these places. The state prosecutor would make it sound simple and factual on their behalf. But the truth of the matter is, they are misusing the point and record system to obtain their goals and the public defenders working on prosecutors' behalf, not their clients, has put me in here.

When the relationship between a public defender and a state's attorney has more of an outcome on a case then the facts, I say that is very unethical. I just cannot believe that the state-paid public defenders are so incompetent that they don't see what's going on. This Mr. Hawey did nothing but lied to me right into all of this. Even John McGiallard claimed that if I would of had him from the start none of this would have happened. I know I wouldn't be here, as I am now for nothing.

I had nobody behind me, family or friends to question the state's methods, so they got away with it and there are countless others. This is not my first time experiencing something like this. I've been sent to prison before for absolutely nothing, what they call a technical violation. Another time a friend of mine stole some cigarettes, went to jail. I tried to pay for them, and I was arrested and sent to prison. My record is full of things like that. I've been sent to prison for going into a condemned house ready to be torn down, no windows, doors, nothing but trash knee-deep in the place. They called it burglary and sent me to prison. If you look at my record it looks like I'm a criminal. All that's needed for a judge to see, to keep sending me back. I feel I'm a perfect example of how the courts take a person and turn them into a criminal, at least in their records. It's how the revolving door thing came into being.

I hope this gives you more of an idea of what's going on, why our prisons are so full. It's no longer just about crimes -- people have become commodity. The courts and prisons need money to keep running, they need arrests, convictions and inmates for that.

They keep the R-Units full of people to the point of three people to a cell that's big enough for one. It's been like this since I've been here November 1997. We're to be distributed to wherever the money is needed. Some people deserve and need to be here, but there's a lot that don't. It's turned into a bigger industry then can be imagined and it can only keep getting bigger. As it grows you'll have more and more laws to keep it full. What about the crime rate, that falls or stays the same. Doesn't any one wonder why jails or prisons are still over crowded and people are still being arrested the same as ever.

Can you imagine them ever closing down a prison because the crime rate is down? They already know how and have more means in keeping this growing: petty laws, more rules and restrictions for easier violations. It's just about impossible for a person to get out and make it. Because of this they keep the revolving door going.

There's so much more to say from experience. I'm 39 and have been to prison eight times. My most serious crime being in 1977: burglary, me and my buddies would steal beer from bars to party on. That is the only time I feel I deserved to go.

Ted Sotelo is currently incarcerated in the Washington State DOC facility in Shelton.

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:

Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

Briefs & Annoucements, cont.

plore the topic of glbt families. The Black Hills Alliance is a newly formed local coalition of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered folks and allies. For more information or to get on our mailing list, please call 943-7469 or write to us at PO Box 7221, Olympia WA 98507.

Slide show of El Salvador

Wednesday, October 7th at 7:30pm
Olympia's downtown Library.

Three Olympia area residents went on the ITAMA delegation to El Salvador. They were Alice Curtis, Teresa Jordan, and Bob Zeigler. They will provide slides and discussion of the trip. It is free and open to the public.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians &Gays

Sun., October 11 at 2pm
First United Methodist Church

Open meeting and a chance to get to know each other better, meet prospective new board members and talk about issues we are facing and upcoming projects. Call 866-0511 for information.

Tenant's Union

Mon., Oct. 12th at 7pm

Learn your rights and responsibilites as a tenant. If you have questions about these rights or would like more information, please call 360/413-4438 and leave a message; a volunteer will return your call the following Monday.

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY JUSTICE FOR LEONARD PELTIER MARCH AND GATHERING AT THE U.S./CANADIAN BORDER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1998

THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY MARCH AND GATHERING IS AN ANNUAL EVENT HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND FOR JUSTICE FOR LEONARD PELTIER, WOLVERINE AND THE FIRST NATIONS 12:00 NOON; INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY MARCH BLAINE, WA; STARTING POINT BLAINE PARK (corner of Blaine & Alder) 1:00 PM; INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY GATHERING PEACE ARCH PARK, U.S./ CANADIAN BORDER POTLUCK MEAL AT PARK AFTER THE RALLY

On this day people from both sides of the border will be coming together to honor the struggles of indigenous people all across Mother Earth. We honor those that have died in these struggles and we honor those behind the iron bars for standing up for their people. We honor Leonard Peltier and Wolverine for making such a great sacrifice for the people and Mother Earth.

American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier remains in prison even though the government has stated that they do not know who is responsible for the acts that Leonard was convicted for. Leonard's defense has disproved, over the years, the government's complete case against him. The government violated the U.S. Constitution and all sense of justice in convicting Leonard through the use of fabricated evidence, intimated witness and by making false statements in court. And still the government holds 6,000 pages of documents on Leonard's case that they will not let the people see. Leonard is being used as a scapegoat for the government's policy of how it deals with the indigenous people, and also Leonard is being used as an example of what is done to those that stand up for the people against those policies and the interests of the transnational corporations.

Because Leonard has stood so strong over the years the government is now using torture on Leonard by refusing him proper medical treatment. Because of the lack of this treatment Leonard lives with excruciating pain. We are asking that all people who believe in social justice and that are able, to please join with us for the International Indigenous People's Day march and gathering. We are also asking for your help with our e-mail campaign. Please e-mail massages asking that Leonard be allowed to have medical treatment at the Mayo Clinic to: Ms. Kathleen Hawk, Director, Bureau Of Prisons at: swolfson@bop.gov. And please send messages to Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell asking him to look in to Leonard's medical condition and asking him when will the congressional hearings be held on Leonard's case: administrator@campbell.senate.gov. And last please send messages to President Clinton, also on Leonard's health and asking for Executive Clemency, at; President@whitehouse.gov.

There will be a CARAVAN FOR JUSTICE leaving for the border from Seattle at 9:00 am on the 11th at the parking lot at 22nd & Madison.

This event is being organize by the NORTHWEST LEONARD PELTIER SUPPORT. NETWORK (NWLPSN). We are a grassroots network and we have no outside funding beyond donations. Please help us by getting this information out, and if you possibly can send us a donation to help make this the best possible event that we can make it. Please send donations to; Olympia NWLPSN Office, 5201 Capital Blvd, Ste 119, Olympia, WA 98501. NORTHWEST LEONARD PELTIER SUPPORT NETWORK SEATTLE, WA, P.O. BOX 2514, Seattle, WA 98111, (206) 325-0085 TACOMA,WA, P.O. BOX 5464, Tacoma, WA 98415-0464, (253) 383-9108

A Day Without The Pentagon Caravan

Friday, Oct. 16th

Join bus caravan from Seattle to Washington DC on the 19th. Stop along the way to pick up passengers and hold media events. Sponsors: War Resisters League 800/975-9688 or wrl@igc.apc.org and Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia 206/547-0952 or can@drizzle.com.

National Week of Action Against Raids '98:

October 12-18.

Immigration raids violate human rights, shatter families, and undermine workers' organizing. Stop the war against Immigrants! Demand that Congress stop the raids! The regional press conference and rally will happen in Seattle on Oct. 14. A march and cultural event will be held in Yakima on October 18. For more information, contact the WA Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice, 206/340-9187 or e-mail: wairj@speakeasy.org.

Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity

Wed. Oct. 14.

presents Tim Wise, political analyst and anti-prejudice speaker and activist. Call 943-7469 for more information.

Northwest Student Conference for Farmworker Justice:

Friday, October 16, 9am to 5pm and Oct. 17 from 9am-1pm.
Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA and Sat.,

Farm workers organizing with the United Farmworkers of America and Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste will present their experiences and struggles for union contracts, and respect and dignity on the job. Workshops include: tactics of campus organizing, history and culture of el movimiento, women in the farm worker movement, environmental justice, MEChA and el movimientio, Labor movement and UFW, and Cesar Chavez's spirituality and non-violent philosophy. Dolores Huerta will speak, and there will be a presentation by muralist Juanishi Orosco. Suggested donation covers lunch and refreshments. Sliding scale freely available. Please RSVP by calling Erin at UFW: 206/443-7645, ufwawa@igc.apc.org.

Diversity Forum sponsored by The Oly Food Co-op

Wed., Oct. 28 from 6pm-7:30pm
Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St., downtown Olympia.

video presentation of "Free Indeed: Addressing White Privilege" plus discussion, with the Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity. Refreshments provided, plus earn working member credit. Diversity forums are free and open to the public. Please call 943-6870 for more information.

WELFARE "REFORM" or, Blaming The Poor for Poverty

Frank Hoffman

This is the second in a series of articles about the recent changes in welfare laws and what they mean to all of us in Olympia. The article this month is a conversation with Rnee Martineau and her son Jamie.

We were talking about the end of an article in the Olympian about George Wallace. His beliefs about civil rights and related subjects changed as he got older. The article ends with this quote attributed to him: "A nation that ignores its poor will lose its soul." Rnee's comment was that, "Offering assistance to poor people is a smart thing to do."

We live in a society that is divided by income rankings, by class; a society where work is not valued and women are not valued. The poor seem to be wrong somehow here. The rich are right. There's Bill Gates pontificating on Channel 9. And there's the City of Seattle bulldozing a squatters camp put together by the homeless for themselves. Still,"... public assistance has allowed me to spend time with my son in his youngest years."

"Housing is hard." The amount of the public assistance grant hasn't changed in a long time. Housing costs keep going up. Rnee lives in very modest housing. Housing has been a struggle since she moved here 15 years ago. "When we first came here, we were on the verge of being homeles for months at a time." The only way to afford housing was to find a household to share - and not many households want to share with a small child.

The poor don't have choices. It takes a lot of effort and time, a lot of trips to Goodwill, constant shopping for bargains, to make things work. To get by day to day.

We don't seem to value children. Most of the poor in the U.S. are children. We don't want to pay childcare workers what they are worth to the society. "Money makes people selfish." People work hard and still can't make ends meet: and need help sometimes.

Public Assistance is a small part of the federal budget. People would be angry if they knew what their money is spent on. Certainly in welfare, a lot of the money goes into the bureaucracy and not to those who need it.

Welfare reform has increased the amount of paperwork and made things more complicated. If a person is working and needs a childcare grant, the employer has to fill out a report by the 5th of each month showing the days and hours the person worked. People now have to report for food stamps in person - it used to be a mail process. Rnee feels fortunate she has a car - what do people do who don't.

Real welfare reform would involve cleaning up the system, providing more training to workers, reducing the amount of paperwork and valuing poor children.

"In general, people who have less are more willing to share - they know what it's like to have less."

Why do so many people with money seem angry with those that don't?

WORKS IN PROGRESS

OCTOBER 1998 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION FREE

photo by Kathy Strauss

High School students including Sally Scout-Moore, Shambricia Spencer and Jean Gregg (R to L) join pro-choice actvists opposing Operation Rescue at Capital High on 9/21/98.

No! I-200 & N0! I-694
&
Endorsements From
Labor and NOW

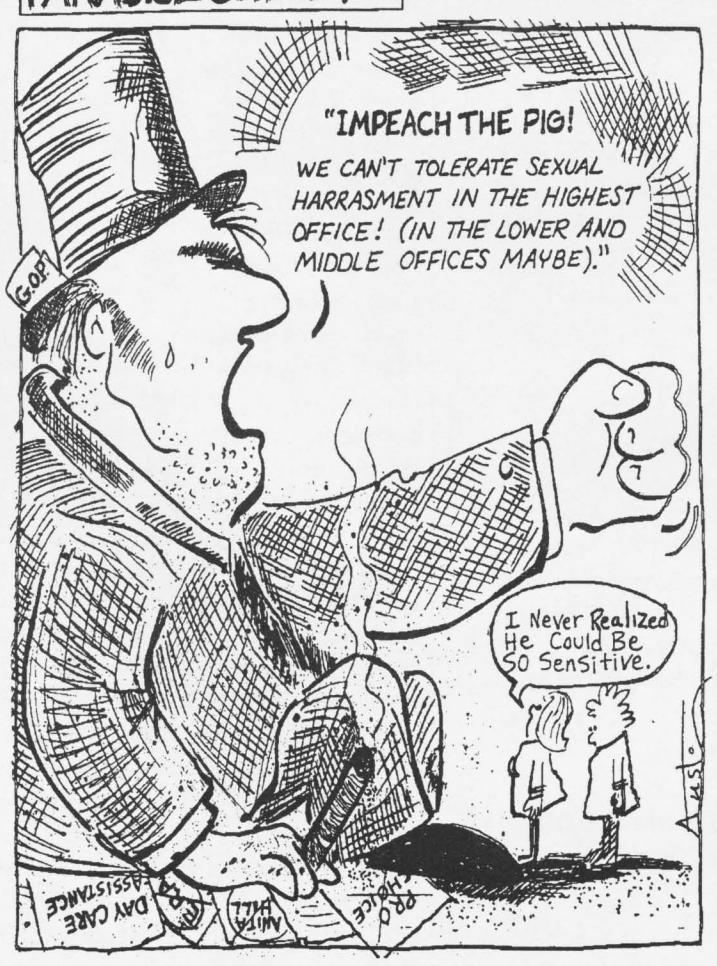
Racism In The 90s

Labor Day
Olympia's Post Office
&
IWW General Assembly

All They Will Say Is
"Just Deportees"

El Salvador:
Five Years Later

Prison Interest


PARADISE CHEAP! BY R+E AUSTIN
"IMPEACH THE PIG!
WE CAN'T TOLERATE SEXUAL HARRASMENT IN THE HIGHEST OFFICE! (IN THE LOWER AND MIDDLE OFFICES MAYBE)."
G.O.P.
I Never Realized He Could Be SO Sensitive.
DAY CARE ASSISTANCE
AUSTIN

Is Your Mate a Sex Addict?

- Unaccountable time
- Unaccountable money
- Unaccountable moods
- His moods depend on whether he gets sex or not
- A lack of sexual activity with you
- A history of emotional, physical or sexual abuse or neglect
- A supply of porn (especially the kind you get at adult book stores)
- Many arguments over sex
- Inability to be emotionally intimate
- Sex doesn't appear to satisfy him (wants more right away or there never seems to be enough)
- A lot of anger or erratic behavior when he is said "no" to sexually
- Feeling alone during your sexual encounters
- Feeling used, dirty or abandoned after sexual encounters
- A sense of he's got his "fix" and now he's better

Source: Heart To Heart
(Heart2Heart@xc.org)

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507